

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 02845 141801Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSC-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01
INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 /074 W

-----141813Z 074777 /42

O R 141715Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9791
USCINCEUR
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE
DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2845

USCINCEUR FOL POLAD
USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MILI, SP
SUBJECT: PCE LEGALIZATION AND THE RESIGNATION OF THE NAVY MINISTER

REF: (A) MADRID 2803; (B) MADRID 2804; (C) USDAO MADRID
131645Z APR 77 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NO OTHER RESIGNATIONS ADDITIONAL TO THAT OF PITA DA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 02845 141801Z

VEIGA HAVE OCCURRED AT THE MOST SENIOR LEVELS OF GOVT (ONE
LOWER LEVEL NAVY OFFICER'S RESIGNATION DID FOLLOW THAT OF
THE NAVY MINISTER), AND THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM FOR THE SUAREZ
GOVT APPEARS TO HAVE PEAKED AND TO BE RECEDING. A NEW NAVY
MINISTER HAS ALREADY BEEN NAMED. DETAILS ADDITIONAL TO THOSE
REPORTED YESTERDAY IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGES ARE BEING
REPORTED SEPARATELY BY DATT. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE THE LEVEL OF UNHAPPINESS WITHIN THE SPANISH MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT CANNOT BE MEASURED WITH ANY PRECISION, IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR THAT EVEN THOSE SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS VERY STRENUOUSLY OPPOSED TO PCE LEGALIZATION--AND THERE WERE MANY OF THEM--QUICKLY AND CLEARLY FOUND UNACCEPTABLE ALL THE ALTERNATIVES TO ACCEPTING THE GOVT'S ACTION.

2. EARLY POSTMORTEMS NOW INCLINE US TO THE VIEW THAT THERE WAS IN FACT LESS THAN FULL ADVANCE COORDINATION WITH SENIOR SPANISH MILITARY LEADERS BEYOND GUTIERREZ MELLADO HIMSELF REGARDING THE MANNER IN WHICH LEGALIZATION WOULD BE CARRIED OUT, EVEN THOUGH THE DECISION ITSELF WAS DISCUSSED WITH THE MINISTERS (REFS). SUAREZ APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN A CALCULATED RISK IN ADOPTING THIS COURSE, AND TO HAVE LIMITED THE DAMAGE. PITA'S RESIGNATION IN FACT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ULTIMATELY A PERSONAL DECISION. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, GUTIERREZ MELLADO'S OWN POSITION WITH HIS MILITARY COLLEAGUES AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT HIM AS THEIR SPOKESMAN MAY HAVE SUFFERED SOME DAMAGE. ALSO, SUAREZ' PERSONAL OPTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN NARROWED SOMEWHAT FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AND FRAGA'S ALIANZA POPULAR AT LEAST marginally STRENGTHENED. IT IS, HOWEVER, TOO SOON TO TELL WHETHER THIS COULD WEIGH AGAINST ANY DECISION ON SUAREZ' PART TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE ELECTIONS.

3. ALL IN ALL, THE ATMOSPHERE, OF CRISIS HAS LARGELY PASSED, AND INDEED PERHAPS SOMEWHAT MORE EASILY THAN IT DID EARLY LAST SEPT IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIRING OF THEN FIRST VICE PRES LT GEN SANTIAGO. AS FAR AS THE MILITARY'S ROLE IN THE PROCESS OF

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 02845 141801Z

POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN SPAIN IS CONCERNED, ANOTHER IMPORTANT HURDLE HAS BEEN CROSSED AT THE COST OF A STUMBLE AND SOME BRUISED MILITARY FEELINGS. IT IS USEFUL TO RECALL THAT THIS SUCCESSFUL AN OUTCOME COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PREDICATED WITH ANY ASSURANCE EVEN A FEW MONTHS AGO. AS FOR THE POSSIBLE LONGER-TERM EFFECTS OF THIS CONTRETEMPS ON SPANISH MILITARY ATTITUDES, WE EXPECT THAT THE MILITARY'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WILL REMAIN DEPENDENT LARGELY ON WHETHER THAT PROCESS CONTINUES TO MOVE ALONG IN RELATIVE PEACE AND ORDER AND WITHOUT SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE STATE. STABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID02845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770130-0063
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770458/aaaabxxr.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 643f23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRID 2803, 77 MADRID 2804
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2808102
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PCE LEGALIZATION AND THE RESIGNATION OF THE NAVY MINISTER
TAGS: PINT, MILI, SP, PCE
To: STATE USCINCEUR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/643f23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009